

# Mutsun language

**Mutsun** (also known as **San Juan Bautista Costanoan**) is an Utian language that was spoken in Northern California. It was the primary language of a division of the Ohlone people living in the Mission San Juan Bautista area. The Amah Mutsun band is currently working to restore use of the language, using a modern alphabet.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup>

<b>Contents</b>
<b>Studies of the language</b>
<b>Phonology</b>
Vowels
Consonants
Alphabet
<b>References</b>
<b>External links</b>

## Studies of the language

Maria Ascención Solórsano De Garcia y De Cervantes amassed large amounts of language and cultural data specific to the Mutsun. The Spanish Franciscan missionary and linguist Felipe Arroyo de la Cuesta wrote extensively about the language's grammar, and linguist John Peabody Harrington made very extensive notes on the language from Solorsano. Harrington's field notes formed the basis of the grammar of Mutsun written by Marc Okrand as a University of California dissertation in 1977,<sup>[1]</sup> which to this day remains the only grammar ever written of any Costanoan language. Scholars from the U.S., Germany, and the Netherlands have discussed methods that could facilitate the revitalization of Mutsun.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Phonology

Vowel and consonant phonemes are represented here with the orthography used in the English-Mutsun dictionary, with the orthographic symbol bolded if it differs from IPA transcription.<sup>[7]</sup>

### Vowels

Mutsun	
San Juan Bautista	
Native to	United States
Region	California
Ethnicity	Ohlone
Extinct	1930, with the death of Ascencion Solórzano de Cervantes <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Yok-Utian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Utian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ohlone<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Southern<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Mutsun</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Writing system	Latin
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	(included in css ( <a href="http://www.ethnologue.com/language/css">http://www.ethnologue.com/language/css</a> ))
Glottolog	mut1243 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/mut1243">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/mut1243</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>



Area where the Utian languages were spoken

	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Mid	e ε	o
Open		a ɑ

- /ε/ is open-mid, whereas /o/ is close-mid.<sup>[7]</sup>
- Vowels and consonants are doubled to indicate longer pronunciation (ex: IPA for *toolos* 'knee' is [toː los])

## Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar		Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
		hard	palatal				
Nasal	m	n			N ɲ		
Stop	p	t	tʲ tʲ	T ɽ		k	' ʔ
Affricate		ts			c tʃ		
Fricative		s			S ʃ		h
Approximant	w	l	L lʲ		y j		
Flap		r ɾ					

## Alphabet

a, c, d, e, h, i, k, l, L, m, n, N, o, p, r, s, S, t, T, ts, tʲ, u, w, y, ' ʔ

## References

1. Okrand, Marc. 1977. "Mutsun Grammar (<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1p59z6kq>)". Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mutsun" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/muts1243>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Warner, N. (2006). Making a Dictionary for Community Use in Language Revitalization: The Case of Mutsun. *International Journal of Lexicography*, 19(3), 257-285. Retrieved from [1] (<http://ijl.oxfordjournals.org/content/19/3/257.short>)
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6. Revitalization in a scattered language community: problems and methods from the perspective of Mutsun language revitalization, Authors: Natasha Warner / Quirina Luna / Lynnika Butler / Heather van Volkinburg, *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*. Volume 2009,

7. Okrand, (page 21)

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## External links

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- Mutsun Dictionary (<http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/ldc/?p=988>)
  - Mutsun Language Talking phrasebook (<http://www.aicls.org/breathoflife/projects/mutsun/>) archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140221025052/http://www.aicls.org/breathoflife/projects/mutsun/mutsun.html>)
  - Amah-Mutsun Tribe Website (<http://www.icimedia.com/costanoan/index.html>)
  - Indian Canyon - recognized "Indian Country" in Hollister (<http://www.indiancanyonlife.org/>)
  - Mutsun language (<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~survey/languages/mutsun.php>) overview at the [Survey of California and Other Indian Languages](#)
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